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2, 1911, and they have one daughter, Ellen Ayers Putney, who was born July 6, 1917. Professor Putney was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Dairy Science Association, Alpha Zeta, Theta Chi, Acacia and the Order of Free and Accepted Masons. Just in his prime and in the fullness of his powers, the loss of Professor Putney will be keenly felt by his wide circle of friends and associates in dairy work. He had that rare combination or practical common sense combined with research ability which enabled him to keep a proper balance in all problems of a research nature. By his death, science has lost a well-trained and efficient worker.

#### VON ADOLF ERICH DAECKE

VON ADOLF ERICH DAECKE—born in Germany, place and date unknown—died at Richmond, L. I., New York, on October 27.

He was entomologist to the department of agriculture of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His work in the New Jersey Museum Reports of 1905-7 and 9 on Diptera was excellent—his knowledge of the Odonata was quite accurate. His name is immortalized in the family of Pipunculidæ in the specific name of the genera *Nephrocerus daeckei*. His nature was very kind, as was shown by the manner the squirrels in Capitol Park upon the sound of his voice or footsteps would spring toward and climb over him, awaiting a word and a caress—when he spoke to them they seemed to comprehend his conversation, his affection for children was wonderful and they were so pleased when he told them of the superficial observation of insects and animals they never seemed to tire of his discourses made so plain by him.

He was a devoted fellow of the Harrisburg, Pa., Natural History Society; from the membership he formed excursions along the by-roads and brooklets and over the mountains searching for the local avi- and zoo-fauna; his enthusiasm added many more to its membership. The charm of his interest in his

students endeared him to them while his attainments were equally fascinating to them.

He was a member of the Entomological Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and attended its meetings with the vigor of youth, although a man in the fifties, was also a member of Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and several scientific societies on the European continent.

He was a sincere friend and generous to a fault—was uncommonly fair in scientific discussion. However, he had very decided views of the superiority of the Germans; he could not read English without a curious disturbance overcoming his usual affability. H.

#### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

##### THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AND THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC<sup>1</sup>

WITH the widespread occurrence of influenza in the vicinity of Boston, and the unmistakable signs of its beginning elsewhere, urgent calls were addressed to the United States Public Health Service to furnish medical and nursing relief to stricken communities. All available regular officers were detailed to the stricken communities, but the number available for such detail was insignificant compared to the urgent need occasioned by the epidemic. Moreover, the bureau had no nurses available for service in epidemic.

In this emergency the Surgeon General called upon the Volunteer Medical Service Corps, the Red Cross, the medical and nursing professions as a whole, and on the general public for personnel to help combat the epidemic. At the same time Congress was appealed to for a special appropriation to meet the expenditure required by the emergency. The necessary funds were promptly voted.

In response to the request for physicians available for duty in the Public Health Service, the Volunteer Medical Service Corps compiled a list of over 1,000 names classified by states. Appointments were offered by tele-

<sup>1</sup> Publication authorized by the U. S. Public Health Service.

graph to these physicians by the Public Health Service, and within forty-eight hours groups of physicians were on their way to some of the stricken communities in New England, where the epidemic at that time raged most severely. Soon after, similar medical units were sent to New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and to Phoenix, Ariz.

The problem of supplying nurses was much more difficult, for it was found almost impossible to discover nurses or trained attendants who were not already extremely busy on urgent medical work. Nevertheless, a limited number of nurses and trained attendants was secured by the American Red Cross and mobilized for emergency service in the communities most severely affected. In addition to this the attention of local communities was called to the valuable nursing work which could be rendered by intelligent volunteer workers, such as school teachers, especially when they are directed by trained graduate nurses. In many communities the organization of this group of nursing personnel has done much to relieve the serious emergency caused by the lack of trained nurses.

It was made clear from the outset that the United States Public Health Service desired to aid and not supplant state and local health authorities in their work. Accordingly, instructions were issued that all requests for medical, nursing, or other emergency aid in dealing with the epidemic should come to the United States Public Health Service only through the state health officer. Moreover, as soon as possible all this epidemic work was organized on state lines with a representative of the United States Public Health Service detailed to each state to secure the best possible organization and coordination of health activities of the service, in others the executive of the State board of health has been given appointment in the United States Public Health Service as field director.

While the activities of the doctors and nurses working under the Public Health Service are generally limited to those ordinarily regarded as preventive health measures, emergency conditions in some communities

have been such that much medical relief work has had to be undertaken. This was the case, for example, in several communities where the few practicing physicians were themselves stricken and where the people were in urgent need of medical attention.

#### FOREIGN DELEGATES TO THE AMERICAN CLINICAL CONGRESS

A PARTY of eminent surgeons from abroad, who came to the United States to attend the Clinical Congress which was given up on account of the influenza epidemic, has been making a tour accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel George E. Brewer, M. C., U. S. Army, New York City; Colonel William J. Mayo, M. C., U. S. Army, Rochester, Minn.; Colonel Franklin H. Martin, M. C., U. S. Army, Chicago, and Dr. Pilcher, New York City. They have been entertained and have delivered addresses on various phases of military surgery in St. Paul, Rochester, Philadelphia, Chicago, New York, and other cities. The party consists of Colonel Sir Thomas Myles, Dublin, Ireland, Major G. Gray Turner, New Castle-on-Tyne, England, Colonel George E. Gask, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, Professor Raffaele Bastianelli and Major Pouletti, Rome, Major Pierre Duval and Lieutenant Henri Beclere, Paris, and Major Poillet, Ambre, France.

On November 6 they were the guests of the New York Fellows of the American College of Surgeons at a dinner at Delmonico's, presided over by Dr. J. Bentley Squier, the feature of which was the conferring upon the visitors of honorary fellowship in the college.

According to a press notice Dr. Squier, presided at the dinner. He reminded the gathering, including several hundred of the best known medical men here, that the clinical congress was to have undertaken important work in this country in October, but that the formal sessions had to be abandoned before the congress was convened because of the influenza epidemic.

Dr. Squier then introduced Colonel Franklin Martin, who related briefly the incidents of the delegates' journey. They went first to